

By: Representatives Bounds, Read, Anderson  
(122nd), Clark, Eure, Hale, Jackson (11th),  
Paden, Pigott

To: Appropriations B;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1730

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD  
3 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Oil and Gas Board  
8 which is comprised of special source funds collected by or  
9 otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of  
10 defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
11 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
12 .....\$ 6,631,277.00.

13 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
14 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16	Permanent:	Full Time.....	35
17	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	0



18 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
20 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds  
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi  
23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
24 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
25 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
26 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
27 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025  
28 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
29 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
30 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
31 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
32 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee  
33 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
34 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

35 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
36 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
37 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
38 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
39 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
40 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
41 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the



State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be essential for the agency.

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level.

No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

**SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Oil and Gas Board shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the



67 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to  
68 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
69 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
70 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

71       **SECTION 4.** The State Oil and Gas Board shall have the  
72 authority to receive, budget and expend funds from any source not  
73 to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) for the  
74 Comprehensive Data Management Program in accordance with rules and  
75 regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a  
76 manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds.

77       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
78 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
79 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
80 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
81 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
82 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
83 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
84 made without competitive bids.

85       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
86 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
87 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
88 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
89 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
90 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
91 actions contrary to this provision.



92           **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 2025.

